

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10

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SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05 /088 W

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1304

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0563

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: TIMING OF PRESENTATION OF OPTION 3 TO THE EAST

1. IN BILATERAL DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 21 BETWEEN SOVIET REP KHLESTOV AND NETHERLANDS REP DE VOS REPORTED BY DEPUTY NETHERLANDS REP IN AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, KHLESTOV REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE. HE SAID THAT IF THIS INITIATIVE WAS COMING, IT SHOULD COME BEFORE THE MID-DECEMBER RECESS. IMPORTANT ISSUES COULD NOT BE RESOLVED THROUGH TELEGRAMS FROM EASTERN DELEGATIONS TO CAPITALS. IF THE WEST MADE A NEW PROPOSAL DURING THE PRESENT ROUND, THE EAST COULD CONSIDER IT AND COULD RESPOND IN THE NEXT ROUND. BUT HHLESTOV SAID, IF SUCH A PROPOSAL WERE MADE IN THE NEXT ROUND, THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS WOULD NOT BE

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IN A POSITION TO RESPOND UNTIL AFTER THEY HAD HAD AN

OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER IN PERSON IN CAPITALS, WHICH WOULD BE AFTER THE NEXT BREAK IN THE VIENNA TALKS. KHLESTOV TOLD US REP IN SEPARATE EARLIER CONVERSATION, MENTIONING PRESS REPORTS OF A NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE, THAT WEST SHOULD REMEMBER THAT SOVIETS WOULD NEED 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR CONSULTATION BEFORE THEY COULD MAKE AN INITIAL SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.

3. THESE COMMENTS BY KHLESTOV CONFIRM OUR EARLIER ANALYSIS THAT, IF A WESTERN NUCLEAR REDUCTION PROPOSAL IS NOT PUT FORWARD UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ROUND OF THE VIENNA TALKS, IT WOULD BE THE END OF MARCH OR BEGINNING OF APRIL AT THE EARLIEST BEFORE THE SOVIETS GAVE AN INITIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSE. KHLESTOV'S LATEST REMARKS INDICATE THAT EVEN THIS SCHEDULE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF THE VIENNA TALKS RECESSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ALLIES HAD MADE THEIR PRESENTATION. RESOR

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